

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES  
CITIZENS CARE AND REHAB CENTER  
October 8, 2012**

<b>DOA MEMBERS</b>	<b>DOA STAFF</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>	<b>UNEXCUSED</b>	<b>GUESTS</b>
Hermine Bernstein	Elly Jenkins	Millard Haines	Hal Ehart	Larry Johnson
Rae Ann Butler	Sue Ramsburg	Mary Rice		Gail Wingate
Dennis Ford	Pat Rosensteel	Virginia Skelley		
David Gray, Comm	Kathy Schey	Robert Wannemacher		
Diane Julian	Carolyn True			
Carol Krimm, Alderman				
Louise Lynch				
Debra Savageau				
Pat Tudor				
Steve Wilhide				
Dan Yeeles				

- I. **Call to Order** – RaeAnn Butler called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm. She announced that there would be a tour of the facility after the meeting at 2:30. RaeAnn also shared that Dr. Bob Wannemacher died last evening at Citizens Care and Rehab.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – RaeAnn welcomed all attendees. One new member, Hermine Bernstein, and two guests were present so introductions were done around the table.
- III. **Action on the Agenda** – There were no additions to the agenda.

- IV. Approval of Minutes** – The minutes from the September 10, 2012 meeting were approved as written. All were in favor.
- V. Commissioner's Report** – Commissioner Gray was present at today's meeting. He had nothing new to report. Everything seems to be on track with the Needs Assessment. There has been some new organization at the County. Transit is now a part of the Citizen Services Division. The Director of Transit recently retired and this may have prompted the change. There will be fewer directors who will have more departments to manage.
- Alderman's Report** – Alderman Krimm was present at today's meeting. She commented on TSAC issues. There continues to be concern regarding the lack of drivers for the Transit Plus service. No new full time positions have been approved. Commissioner Smith was at the TSAC meeting and discussed the cab vouchers. The issue with the vouchers is that cabs are not handicapped accessible. The BoCC is to keep an eye on how many citizens are not being served because of the cutbacks. This system has historically been one of the top rated systems in the state. Ridership is growing and the need is growing. Alderman Krimm stated there was a grant program in DC to help upgrade taxis and make them accessible for disabled and handicapped persons. It was a very expensive process.
- VI. Mission Moment, Elly Jenkins** – One person from the staff at the Dept of Aging will be coming each month to briefly discuss their role and/or program. Elly is the Senior Health Insurance Program coordinator and Information and Assistance coordinator. Elly stated that although she plans her day to accomplish many tasks, she can be easily sidetracked by someone in a crisis. An example is a gentleman that had received a letter from Social Security regarding a reduction in his social security check due to a prior overpayment of funds. The gentleman cannot read and did not realize what was going on until his check had been issued at a much smaller amount. Elly worked with contacts she has in different agencies to help ensure his rent was paid for the month. This is one example where mild case management would be prudent. This is a significant gap in service. Department of Social Services offers case managers to their clients, but these services are limited to the program each client receives. It is very difficult for clients to get in touch with their case managers. Elly invites anyone to come and spend a day with her to see what can happen in a day in her office.
- VII. Nominating Committee Update, Diane Julian** – Diane welcomed Hermine to her first meeting today. She mentioned that Hal has not sent in a letter of resignation. It is her suggestion that the CoA formally dismiss him from the Commission. Dan seconded this motion. All

were in favor. RaeAnn will draft a letter and copy it to the Nominating Committee, Carolyn, and Joyce Grossnickle. The Nominating Committee presented information regarding Earnell Graham who is interested in becoming a member of the CoA. Diane passed a copy of her resume around the table. The Nominating Committee suggests that she be recommended to the BoCC as a member of the Commission. Dan seconded the motion. All were in favor. She will be taking Dr. Beck's position which will expire in 2014. There are two more open positions. There are five members whose terms end in December, 2012. Members should familiarize themselves with the process of renewing their membership. There was a suggestion that we add a request for Veteran representative to the next advertisement of openings. Joyce can be asked to add that specific request as well as a more specific geographic area of the County to be represented on the Commission.

**Advocacy, Steve Wilhide** – Steve talked about the need for a volunteer coordinator at the Dept of Aging. This should be a priority for the county. There is a substantial need for help to the DoA staff. One idea is to use grant funds to support a personnel position. Most grants are for capital projects. Even with a position which starts with grant funding, there has to be a way to sustain the position. The need is for a paid staff person for consistency who could recruit and maintain a pool of volunteers. Carolyn has requested this staff position in prior years and believes it is time to request it again. Steve believes there is benefit in hiring an Americorp volunteer which could evolve into the paid position. This is an issue which needs to stay on the agenda to be revisited at future meetings.

Steve spoke about an obligation to inform the public of the unmet needs occurring in community. He believes most people are not aware of how often stories like Elly's actually occur. His suggestion is a monthly article or story in the local newspapers which would tell real stories which would make it more valid. This may also attract more volunteers to the Department. The Channel 19 weekly spot would be a great venue to use to inform the public. It would be hard to get very specific stories because of confidentiality. Some seniors are very proud and would not want their story told. The issue is how to do this and do it consistently. There is a responsibility attached to the idea of a monthly article. This project would take a commitment by two or three Commission members. It may be a good idea to come up with ten topics and focus on one topic each month. Gail Wingate suggested approaching a local paper and ask if they could recommend a reporter who could take on this assignment. Gail will talk with her sister who works at the Gazette to see if she could attend one of our meetings. Steve and Debbie will start researching and collecting

information on transportation needs. Steve will talk to Sarah of Partners in Care about participating.

- VIII. Expo Update, RaeAnn Butler** – The Expo is over for another year. The date for next year is October 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were 652 registered attendees although there were some there who did not register. There was a sign in sheet for people who were interested in participating in the Needs Assessment. Members are encouraged to talk with familiar senior groups about the Needs Assessment. It was mentioned that Catoctin View is interested in having someone from the CoA come and speak with them. A similar request was made by the Spring Ridge complex.

**Aging Needs Assessment RFP Update, Pat Rosensteel** – This group is still waiting to hear about the Community Development Block Grant outcome. Meanwhile work is being done on the Request for Proposals. The contractors will work with the staff to judge best practices for implementing the Assessment. Agencies and senior organizations will also be asked to participate in the Assessment.

**MAP Update, Kathy Schey** – Kathy reported the written MoU has been completed with the Freedom Center. We now have a staff member from that agency located at the DoA. The formal process has begun with the Department of Health and Department of Social Services. Kathy is out in the community at least once a week talking about MAP. The Senior Tax Credit seminars were very successful. Two thirds of the people attending were new to the DoA. There will be a *Scam Smart and Fraud Free* seminar at Urbana on December 4<sup>th</sup>. This will also be videotaped and available on the Channel 19. The MAP action strategic plan is being developed at the request of the state. It is a five year plan which includes sustainability.

- IX. TSAC, Alderman Krimm** – Alderman Krimm spoke on this earlier in the meeting.

**State CoA, Louise Lynch** – The State Commission is concerned about the same issues as local commissions and would like to work more closely with them and coordinate efforts. There is a possibility of a Transportation Summit with state representatives and local CoAs. A draft plan is completed and areas of concern are being identified. The State CoA would like to post the monthly approved minutes from all the local CoA meetings on their website. They would also like to include the names and contact information of all the Chairs posted on their website.

**PiC, Diane Julian** - Diane reminded everyone of the upcoming event at Mimi's Café. On October 9th, Mimi's Café in Frederick will be

donating fifteen percent of their profits to PiC. You will need to have the corresponding flyer for this event.

**Affordable Housing Council, Dennis Ford** – Dennis did not attend the last meeting. Larry was present at today's meeting and spoke about the Land Trust which is an important initiative. This Trust will ensure properties involved will remain set aside for affordable housing.

**Friends of MoW, Louise Lynch** - Gail Wingate reported that a first board meeting was held. A store in downtown Frederick has agreed to participate in a fundraising event. The store is called Silk and Burlap. They are a high end retailer. They do an annual fundraiser during November and December. There is another possible fundraiser with local car dealerships being coordinated by Jay Givens of Givens Collision and Repair. Debbie Savageau spoke of some local facilities who are interested in helping with fundraising efforts.

**USM, Ginny Skelley** – Ginny was not present at today's meeting. No report.

**Adult Public Disabled Review Board, Mary Rice** - Mary was not present at today's meeting. No report.

**Director, Carolyn True** –Medicare D Open Enrollment season starts October 15<sup>th</sup> through December 7<sup>th</sup>. Elly has eleven volunteers to help with the process. Three of the volunteers are also members of the CoA.

The HVAC project is complete at the Frederick Senior Center. There has been some minor renovations and modernization. Staff moved back into that part of the building last week.

On Thursday the BoCC approved the use of credit cards for payment. The hope is that this will increase the amount of collections for some of the programs.

The workgroup for the Senior Tax Credit met recently to review and revise the tax credit. The BoCC are anxious to serve more seniors by adjusting the criteria. The hope is to have recommendations by the end of the year

Senator Ben Cardin will be speaking at the Urbana Senior Center on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. This is not a campaign event. It is an opportunity for him to speak about the Affordable Care Act and the potential changes in funding if Congress does not act to pass a budget.

Early voting will be held here at the Dept of Aging. It starts on October 27<sup>th</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup>. The expectation is for a heavy turnout.

Frederick County Commission on Aging

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This is a great outreach opportunity to a younger crowd. There is the possibility that extra security will be in place because of traffic. We will be continuing as normal with our daily programs.

- X. Announcements, All** – The next CoA Executive Committee meeting will be held on October 23<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00 pm.

November's meeting will be a week early and will be held on November 5<sup>th</sup> due to Veterans Day holiday on November 12, 2012.

- XI. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg  
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

November 5, 2012, Commission on Aging, 1:00 at the Frederick Senior Center, 1440 Taney Avenue, Frederick, MD

November 9, 2012, Silk and Burlap MoW Fundraiser

November 10, 2012, Energy Wise Program, 9:00am – 1:00 pm at Frederick Senior Center,

November 14, 2012, Presentation about Dept of Aging programs with a light dinner, 5:00 pm at the Frederick Senior Center